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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF BENTLEY-WITH-ARKSEY.



First Annual

# REPORT

OF THE

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

1925.

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*Printed by Order of the Council, Feb. 16th, 1926.*

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Doncaster :

“Doncaster Gazette,” General Printers, Printing Office Street.



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## ANNUAL REPORT

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SANITARY INSPECTOR,  
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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council  
of Bentley-with-Arksey.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour in submitting for your consideration a report upon the work of my Department during the year ending 31st December, 1925.

I very much regret that for three months of the year I was seriously ill and unable to attend to the duties of my Office, and I wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health, the Surveyor and his staff, for the kind consideration and assistance rendered during this unfortunate period. Some time elapsed before I was able to overtake the arrears of work, which necessarily accumulated owing to this prolonged absence from my duties.

### I. NUISANCES.

Six hundred and eighty-seven inspections were made, involving the service of 309 Informal and 54 Statutory Notices. These were allocated as follows:—

Defective Dust Bins ... ..	140
Repair and cleansing of drains ...	45
Yard paving ... ..	42
Sink waste pipes ... ..	9
Leaky spouts ... ..	17
Defective W.C.'s ... ..	22
Burst water pipes ... ..	10
Pollution of streams ... ..	2
Overcrowding ... ..	6
Deposit of refuse ... ..	2
Insanitary dwellings ... ..	5
Defective roofs ... ..	2
Minor defects ... ..	7
Total ... ..	309

Of the Informal Notices served, 82 per cent. were complied with without having to serve Statutory Notices, which shows how effective and useful this method of procedure is. Of the Statutory Notices served 12 remained outstanding at the close of the year.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

In only two cases were proceedings taken to enforce compliance with Notices served. One in respect to the erection of buildings contrary to your Bye-laws, and the other under The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. In both cases convictions were obtained.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year 9 observations were taken in respect to Industrial smoke nuisance. In one case the emission was from 5 to 7 minutes per hour, and in the other 10 to 15 minutes. Notices to abate the nuisance were served in these cases, with a beneficial result, brought about by the methods of firing and the kind of fuel used.

## II. FOOD INSPECTIONS.

### FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are 18 of these premises on the Register, and 36 inspections were made; 9 were satisfactory, and 9 unsatisfactory. The chief defects were:—Unsuitable sheds, 1; dirty stoves, 2; shops dirty, 2; washer dirty, 4; yards defective, 2; drainage, 2. Generally, this trade is carried on in a fairly satisfactory manner, but greater care should be exercised in cleanliness and the prevention of offensive vapours emitted during the process of frying. Most of the stoves in use are of modern type, and designed to prevent the latter nuisance.

### BAKEHOUSES.

Of the 12 Bakehouses on the Register, only 9 were in use at the close of the year. These are kept in a fair condition, and, with two exceptions, water is laid on for cleansing purposes. The latter are to be remedied. In one instance the building was reported to be unsuitable, and new premises are now being erected to replace this.

### MEAT.

Since the coming into operation of The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, on the 1st April, 1925, the following inspections have been made:—

Swine	...	...	...	126
Cattle	...	...	...	59
Sheep	...	...	...	22
Calves	...	...	...	5
				<hr/>
				212
				<hr/>



The general standard of meat has been good, and only in one or two cases has it been necessary to condemn portions of carcasses, which were voluntarily surrendered without any proceedings being taken. The working of the Regulations is gradually becoming very effective, and I believe there is a general desire amongst the trade to respect them. Twenty-two meat shops were duly inspected during the year, and advice given where alterations were found to be necessary. The only prosecution was that reported under the heading of " Legal Proceedings " (Page 3).

Many of the butchers hawk meat in this and the surrounding districts, the Ford van being commonly in use. In some cases these vehicles were open at the front, thus allowing dust and dirt to find its way to the meat inside. I was generally successful in getting the owners to remedy this by boarding up the front.

Cards were also printed, with the name of the Council thereon, warning the public against the handling of meat before purchase, and these were distributed to each shop at cost price.

#### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Two special reports were presented to you during the year on these premises, namely, on the 1st April and the 8th December. On the latter date 54 sheds, accommodating 286 cows, were inspected, and the following is an extract from that report:—

" Very few sheds may be considered satisfactory in all details. Those structurally in order were found in many instances either overcrowded or unsatisfactory as regards cleanliness. Cubic space allowed in the Regulations, namely 800ft. per cow, was exceeded in 31 cases, while, on the other hand, 15 exceeded 1,000 feet per cow. Other defects were as follows:—

Insufficiently lighted	...	...	...	19
„ ventilated	...	...	...	14
Defective floors	...	...	...	9
„ roofs	...	...	...	9
„ drainage	...	...	...	4
„ paving	...	...	...	6
General structure bad, and low sheds	...	...	...	15
Cleanliness unsatisfactory	...	...	...	31
Inadequate water supply	...	...	...	3

" In 8 cases the yard surface was utilised for the storage of manure, without proper drainage, 8 of the 14 fold-yards were wet and inadequately drained. A large percentage of the roof water is allowed to drain into the latter. In 5 cases only are middens provided for manure, but uncovered."

Notices were served upon the occupiers to remedy the defects, as far as practicable, owing to the nature of some of the sheds, which were very old and never intended for the use of dairy cows. The difficulty with which we are faced is, that the occupier cannot see his way to expend money in carrying out repairs to property belonging to someone else, and the owner, on the other hand, takes the view that, as many of the farms were never let as dairy farms, he cannot be held responsible for carrying out the alterations necessary. However, an effort is being made to execute many of the repairs so as to make the sheds as satisfactory as possible.

### III. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These are divided into the following classes :—

Tailoring and Dressmaking	...	...	...	3
Smithies	...	...	...	2
Boot repairing	...	...	...	3
Joinery	...	...	...	6
Wire annealing	...	...	...	1
Motor Garages	...	...	...	5
Milling	...	...	...	2
Brick kilns	...	...	...	1
Laundries	...	...	...	1
Engineering	...	...	...	2
Fire Lighters	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	2
Fish Friers (Mechanical Labour)	...	...	...	7
Total				36

The general condition of these premises is satisfactory, but in one instance the sanitary accommodation was found to be insufficient, and this is at present under consideration.

### IV. SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These are all private slaughter-houses, and include one Knacker's Yard. The latter has caused some little dissatisfaction during the year owing to the manner in which the trade was carried on. Considerable improvement, however, has been effected. One other slaughter-house needs certain repairs to put it into a proper sanitary condition, and these are now being carried out. The fact that these premises are visited every week under the Meat Regulations provides an opportunity for strict supervision.

## V. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious disease were investigated and the premises disinfected:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	66
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	73
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	24
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	3
Total ...					170

134 cases were removed to Isolation Hospital. Disinfection of Schools was carried out twice at the New Village and twice at the Bentley Central Schools. Assistance was also rendered to the Medical Officer of Health in swabbing the throats of 550 scholars at the New Village Schools during an outbreak of diphtheria.

All milk supplies were thoroughly investigated during an outbreak of scarlet fever, but no trace of infection from this source was found.

An outbreak of diphtheria occurred amongst van dwellers at Dawkes' Yard, Bentley Road. The vans affected were at once placed in quarantine, and all the other vans removed and the yard thoroughly disinfected.

## VI. BYE-LAWS.

### VAN DWELLINGS.

During the year proceedings were instituted against the owner of the land and occupier of an old railway carriage, which had been erected for human habitation contrary to your bye-laws. A fine of £5 was imposed, and the occupier (a widow) ordered to make application for a Council house with a view to the building being vacated.

A special report was made on the 4th March dealing with the question of vans occupied as dwellings. 35 were reported upon, but, owing to the scarcity of houses, no action was taken except to call upon the occupiers and owners to conform to the bye-laws. This is a matter of serious importance, and, in view of the decision in the case of "Keeling v. Wirral Rural District Council," greater pressure may now be brought to bear in respect to this class of dwelling to enforce compliance with the bye-laws of the Council.



## PIG KEEPING.

A contravention of your nuisance bye-laws was made in the keeping of swine, and notice to abate the nuisance was served. Plans were subsequently submitted for new premises, and these are now in course of erection.

## VII. SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

### CONVERSION OF PRIVIES.

During the year the Council have pursued their policy in converting privy-middens into water closets. Sixty of these unsatisfactory places have been demolished during the year, at a total cost of £873/10/9, half of which sum was contributed out of rate, and, at the time of writing this report, the whole of the Bentley Road area has been rid of these unhealthy buildings. Unfortunately, the rapidity of the abolition of these places received a check during the year pending the extension of the Sewage Out-fall Works, but, as these are now approaching completion, it is hoped that this urgent reform will be continued throughout the coming year.

There are some 114 of these places still existing in your district, 17 of which are of the "open" type, and 11 pail closets.

### WATER SUPPLY.

During the year, advantage was taken whilst carrying out the work of converting privies, to get the public supply of water laid on in the houses where this had not already been done. With the exception of 6 houses, all the houses in the Bentley Road area are now connected up with the main supply. These latter will no doubt receive attention in the near future, but at present the existing supply from wells is quite good. Some three years ago there were 60 houses in this area taking supplies from wells, most of which were shallow, and the water of doubtful purity. There are still 126 houses in your district deriving water supply from wells, and 18 from other private sources, whilst 48 houses obtain the public supply from stand-pipes in the yards.

## VIII. HOUSING.

Under the Housing Acts and Regulations, 54 inspections were made and notices served to remedy defects. Thirty-nine of these were rendered fit without formal notices being served, and of the remainder, 11 were remedied after the service of formal notices, leaving 4 outstanding at the close of the year. No action was taken in issuing Closing Orders, but there are a number of old properties that are unfit for human occupation, which should receive the urgent attention of the Council as soon as the housing shortage has been overcome.

The general standard of housing is quite of the average type, but there are several areas where speculative building has taken place without much regard to either design or structure, and these areas account for the most trouble in housing defects.

This is aggravated by the fact of the neglect on the part of owners, or their agents, in executing repairs so soon as they arise, the properties being allowed to deteriorate from very minor defects at the commencement, and ultimately involving considerable expense. Most of these repairs might well be prevented under improved management and supervision by owners. In a few cases the tenants might be more careful in their use of the property.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. B. JEPSON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Dept.,

Council Offices, Bentley.

16th February, 1926.



